

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 063

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6486

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET APPEAL TO PEOPLES, PARLIAMENTS, ETC.

REF: A. MOSCOW 6471 B. MOSCOW 6458

1. PRAVDA ON MAY 11 REPORTED DOBRYNIN'S CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND HOUSE SPEAKER ALBERT TO DELIVER THE SOVIET APPEAL "TO PEOPLES, PARLIAMENTS, AND GOVERNMENTS" (REFTEL), THEREBY CALLING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THIS DOCUMENT FOR ITS IMPORTANCE TO U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. WE ASSUME THAT SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN OTHER COUNTRIES WILL ALSO ATTEMPT TO HAND DELIVER THE APPEAL, BUT, IF SO, THAT IS NOT YET MENTIONED IN THE SOVIET PRESS OR WIRE SERVICES.

2. COMMENT: THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP MAY WELL HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT IT HAS TROD A BIT TOO HEAVILY ON U.S. TOES ON VIETNAM IN RECENT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE BREZHNEV MAY 8 SPEECH. BREZHNEV'S MAIN MESSAGE TO GOVERNOR HARRIMAN IN THEIR CONVERSATION MAY 9 (REF B) WAS CLEARLY THAT THE U.S. SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE OTHER REASONS WHICH MAKE SUCH STATEMENTS NECESSARY--PRESUMABLY FOR SOVIET-BLOC AND SOVIET-DRV RELATIONS AS WELL AS FOR DOMESTIC REASONS. EMBOFF WHO ACCOMPANIED GOVERNOR HARRIMAN TO HIS CALL ON KOSYGIN FELT THAT KOSYGIN WAS DEFINITELY DEFENSIVE ON THE VIETNAM ISSUE, SEVERAL TIMES STRESSING THAT VIETNAM IS NOW IN THE PAST AND SHOULD NO LONGER BE A BONE OF CONTENTION.

3. THE APPEAL IS GENERALLY INOFFENSIVE ON VIETNAM, AT LEAST IN
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COMPARISION WITH OTHER RECENT SOVIET OFFICIAL STATEMENTS. ITS CALL

ON THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO CEASE "INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS" OF OTHER STATES IS BROADLY AIMED AT ALL GOVERNMENTS AND EVEN BY LOOSE SOVIET AESOPIAN STANDARDS ONLY VERY INDIRECTLY REFLECTS ON U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM.

4. WE THINK THAT THE SOVIETS THUS WANT US TO REGARD THE APPEAL AS A FURTHER OLIVE BRANCH ON THE VIETNAM ISSUE. HAVING ATTAINED A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION IN VIETNAM, SOVITS NOW PLEAD ON A BILATERAL LEVEL TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES AND FOR US TO TURN TO MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS; ON A MULTILATERAL PLANE, THEY CONTINUE TO USE VIETNAM AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE INVINCIBILITY OF "PROGRESSIVE FORCES." THE KREMLIN THIS CONTINUES, NOT SURPRISINGLY, TO PLAY TO SEVERAL DIFFERENT AUDIENCES.
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